

MARVEL
COMICS

THE UNCANNY

THE
MUIR
ISLAND
SAGA



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AUG
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT--
Colossus
IS BACK!



SO WHY IS HE
TRYING TO
KILL
PROFESSOR
X?

ANDY KUBER
WILLIAM 91

STAN LEE PRESENTS

BAD To THE BONE

STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN

THE GUTTED
RUINS OF
PROFESSOR
CHARLES
XAVIER'S
SCHOOL
FOR GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS.

THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT.

I TRUST,
XAVIER, YOU
REMEMBER
COLOSSUS.

PIOTR
NIKOLIEVITCH
RASPUTIN.

I FOUND HIM IN THE SIBERIAN COLLECTIVE
THAT HAD BEEN HIS HOME FOR MOST OF
HIS YOUNG LIFE, A FARMBOY WITH THE
SOUL OF A POET.

BUT ALSO-- MOST IMPORTANTLY
IN MY EYES, IN MY ARROGANCE--
A MUTANT.

AND SO, I
MADE HIM A
WARRIOR.

YOUR X-MAN
IS MINE NOW,
SLAVE BODY AND
SOUL TO THE WILL
OF THE SHADOW
KING!

HIS
ORDERS ARE
TO REND THE
LOVELY
MS. HUNTER
LIMB FROM
LIMB--

-- I DID
WARN YOU,
MY DEAR,
OF THE
TERRIBLE
PRICE OF
DEFIANCE--

-- AND
THEN, OLD
ENEMY, TO
DO THE SAME
TO YOU!

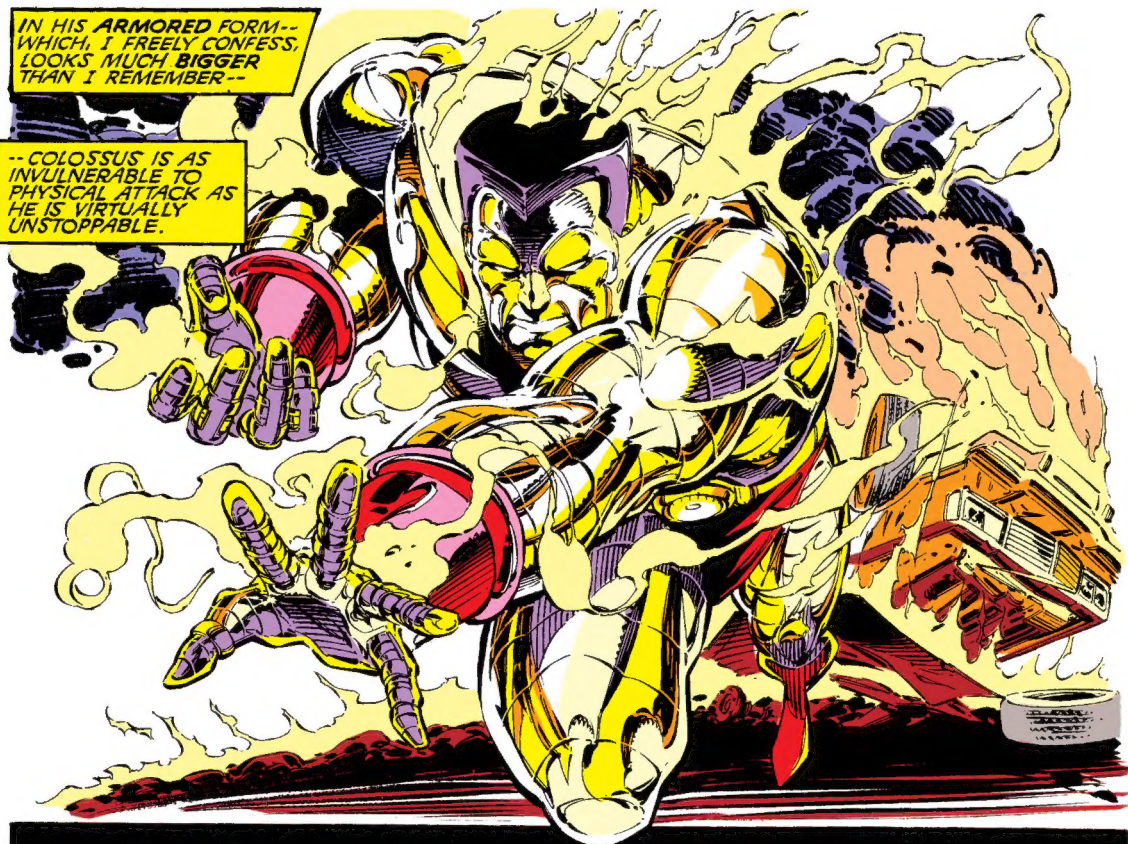
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SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM LEE FOR PLOT ASSIST

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IN HIS ARMORED FORM--
WHICH, I FREELY CONFESS,
LOOKS MUCH BIGGER
THAN I REMEMBER--

--COLOSSUS IS AS
INVULNERABLE TO
PHYSICAL ATTACK AS
HE IS VIRTUALLY
UNSTOPPABLE.



FORTUNATELY, I RELY
ON OTHER ASSETS.

THERE! THAT'S
STOPPED HIM!



USED MY TELEPATHIC
POWERS TO INTERRUPT
COLOSSUS' VOLUNTARY
MOTOR FUNCTIONS AND
INDUCE A TEMPORARY
PARALYSIS.

AT LEAST, UNTIL
WE CAN DETERMINE
HOW BEST TO
RELEASE HIM FROM
THE SHADOW KING'S
INFLUENCE.



MY
OLDEST
FOE,
STEVIE.

IN MANY
RESPECTS,
THE PRIMARY
REASON...

...I
CREATED
BOTH THIS
SCHOOL
AND THE
X-MEN.

PLEASE
OPEN YOUR
THOUGHTS
TO ME...



...I NEED TO KNOW
ALL THAT HAS
TRANSPI

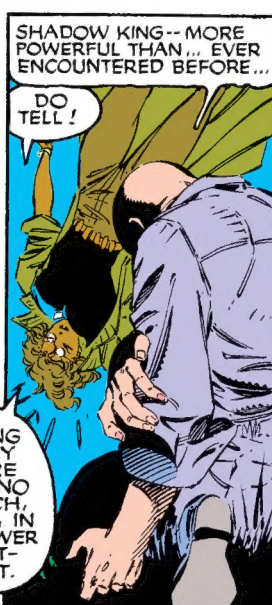
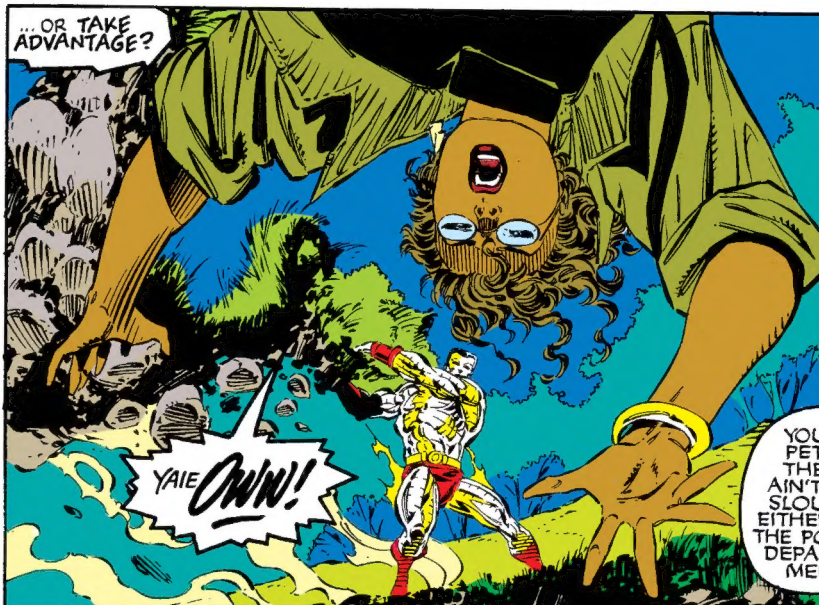
ARRGH!

SILLY
SILLY
CHARLEY--

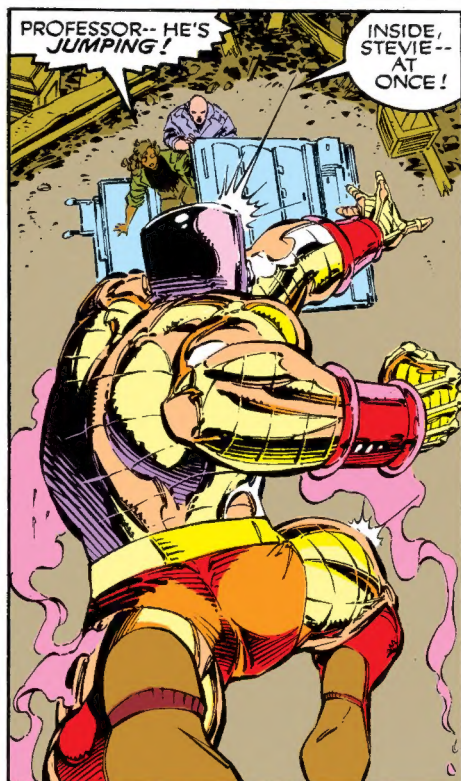
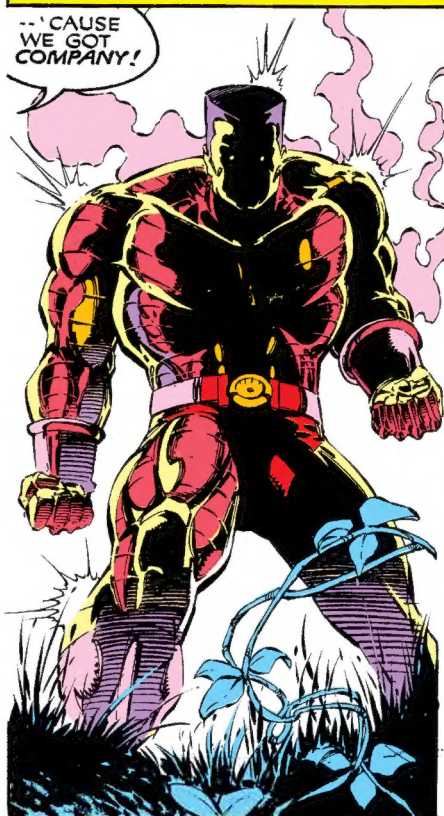
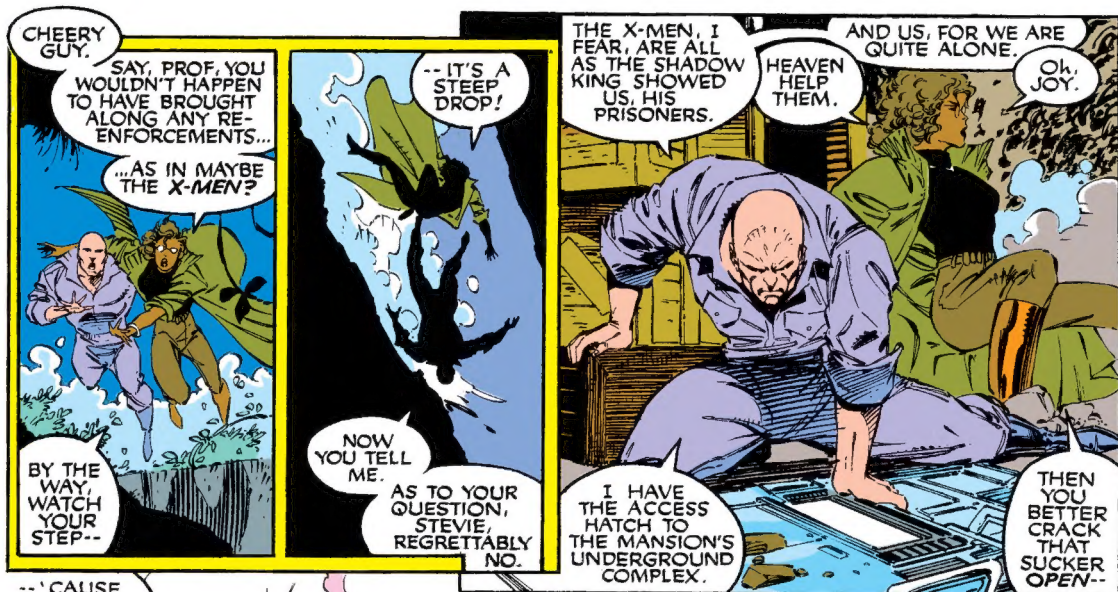
--SPLITTING
YOUR FOCUS
LIKE THAT!

DID YOU
THINK I
WOULDN'T
NOTICE...





HIDE OR FIGHT, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, THE END WILL BE THE SAME.

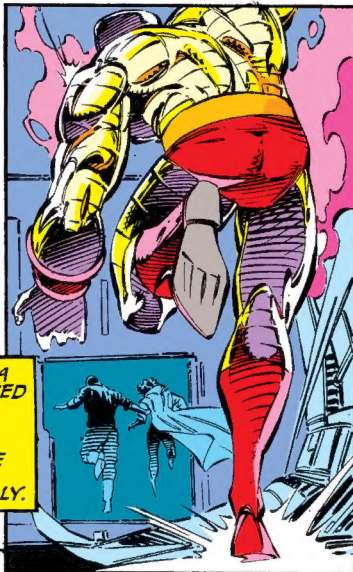


FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES...

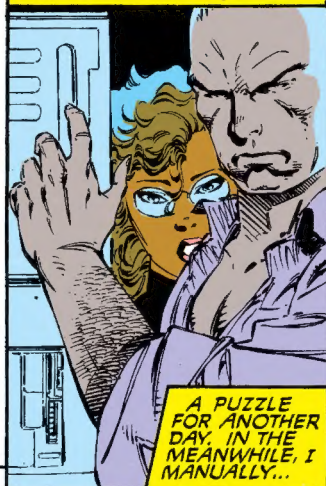
SKRAM

...I NEEDN'T HAVE BOTHERED.

AFTER SUCH A VIOLENT, FORCED ENTRY, THE INTERIOR DEFENSES SHOULD HAVE ACTIVATED AUTOMATICALLY.



A GLANCE AT A REMOTE STATUS DISPLAY REVEALS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY DISENGAGED.



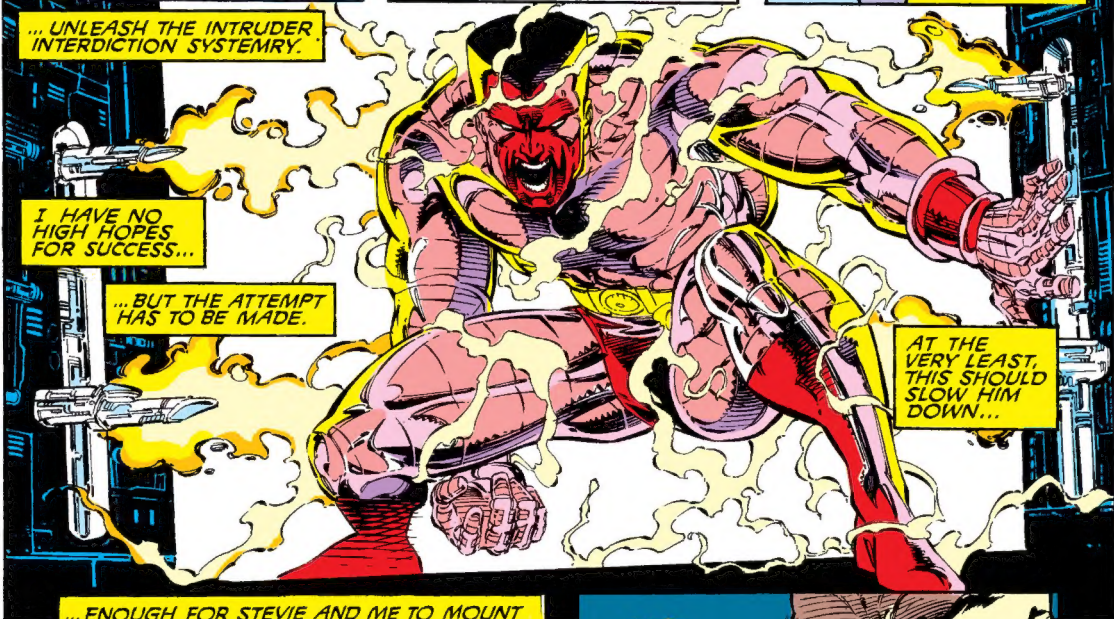
A PUZZLE FOR ANOTHER DAY. IN THE MEANWHILE, I MANUALLY...

...UNLEASH THE INTRUDER INTERDICTION SYSTEMRY.

I HAVE NO HIGH HOPES FOR SUCCESS...

...BUT THE ATTEMPT HAS TO BE MADE.

AT THE VERY LEAST, THIS SHOULD SLOW HIM DOWN...



...ENOUGH FOR STEVIE AND ME TO MOUNT A PROPER RESPONSE...

...FROM THE ONLY SPACE IN THIS ENTIRE COMPLEX THAT HAS EVEN A PRAYER OF DOING THE JOB.

THE DANGER ROOM.

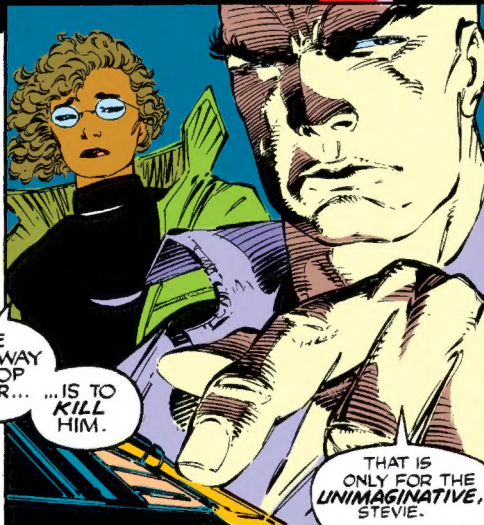
IT'S HIM OR US, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S WHAT THE SHADOW KING'S AFTER, WHERE HE GETS HIS JOLLIES?

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP PETER...

...IS TO KILL HIM.

THAT IS ONLY FOR THE UNIMAGINATIVE, STEVIE.





COME OUT
COME OUT
COMRADE
PROFESSOR...

... WHEREVER
YOU ARE!

PETER'S
VOICE.

THE
SHADOW
KING'S
SING-SONG
TAUNT.

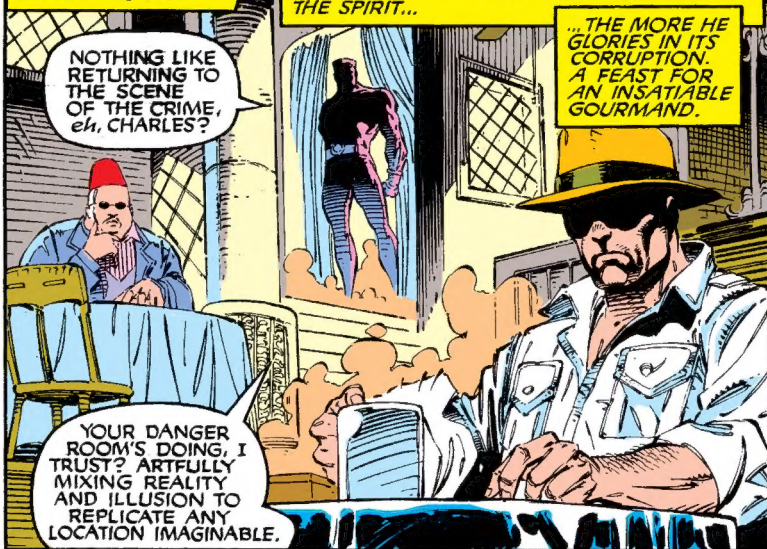
AND I CANNOT HELP
BUT WONDER IF
PETER IS AWARE OF
WHAT HE IS BEING
FORCED TO DO.

NOTHING LIKE
RETURNING TO
THE SCENE
OF THE CRIME,
eh, CHARLES?

YOUR DANGER
ROOM'S DOING, I
TRUST? ARTFULLY
MIXING REALITY
AND ILLUSION TO
REPLICATE ANY
LOCATION IMAGINABLE.

THAT IS THE KING'S STYLE... HE DRAWS
SUSTENANCE FROM THE PAIN AND HATRED,
THE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS, OF HIS VICTIMS.
THE NOBLER THE SOUL, THE MORE DECENT
THE SPIRIT...

... THE MORE HE
GLORIES IN ITS
CORRUPTION.
A FEAST FOR
AN INSATIABLE
GOURMAND.



HOW FITTING,
THAT FOR OUR
LAST
ENCOUNTER...

... YOU
RESURRECT
THE SETTING
OF OUR
FIRST!

I LIVED A
LIFETIME IN
THE FORM OF
AMAH! FAROUK,
THE BODY SERVED
ME WELL.

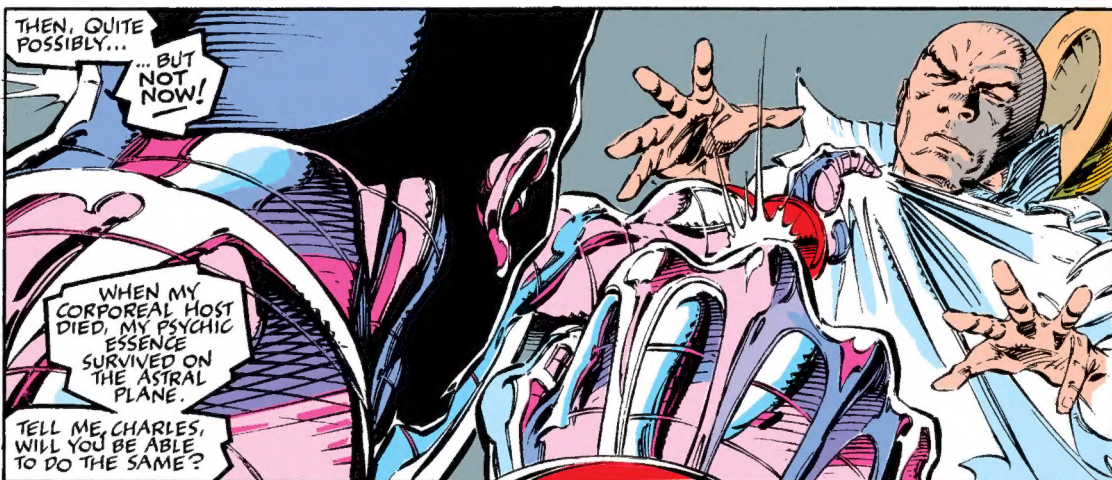
PERHAPS I GREW
TOO COMFORTABLE IN
IT, TOO COMPLACENT.

PERHAPS
THAT WAS THE
EDGE THAT
ALLOWED YOU
TO DEFEAT
ME.



AND THERE I MERELY
ASSUMED, ALL
THESE YEARS...

...THE BETTER
MAN WON.

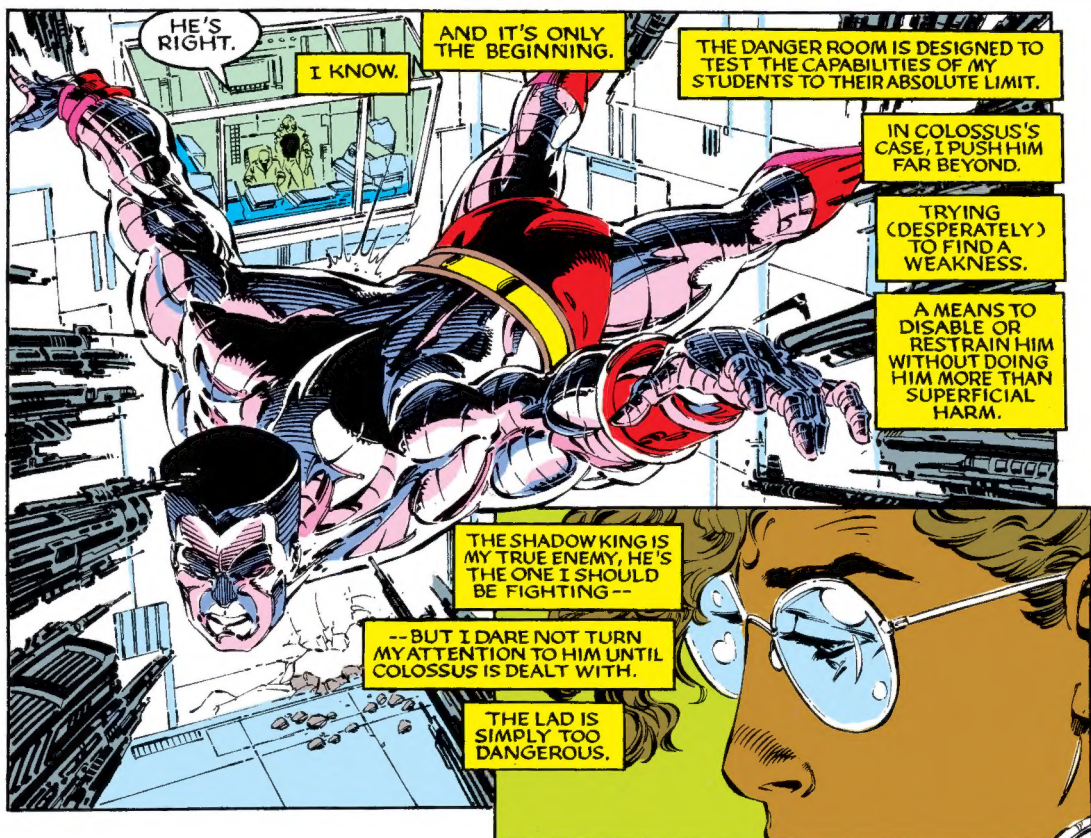
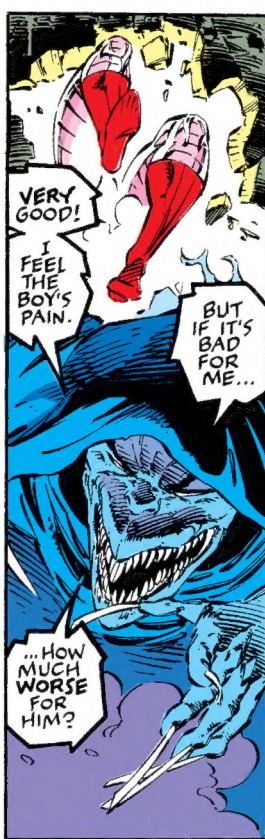
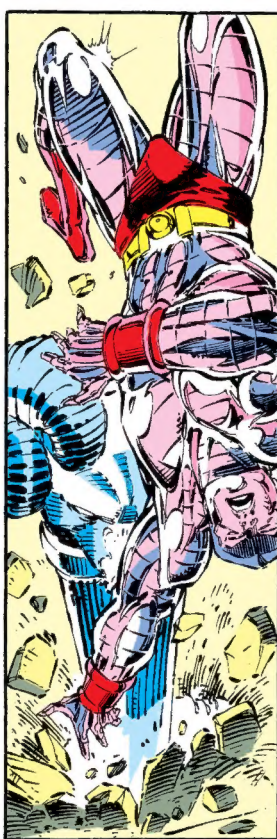
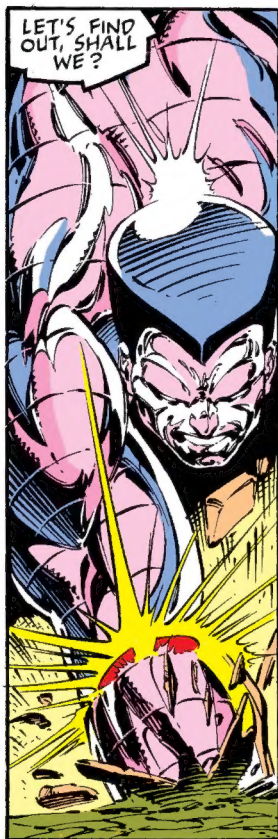


THEN, QUITE
POSSIBLY...

... BUT
NOT
NOW!

WHEN MY
CORPOREAL HOST
DIED, MY PSYCHIC
ESSENCE
SURVIVED ON
THE ASTRAL
PLANE.

TELL ME, CHARLES,
WILL YOU BE ABLE
TO DO THE SAME?



AGAIN, AS WITH THE
HATCH, I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
BETTER.

FOR,
ALTHOUGH
PETER IS THE
SHADOW KING'S
SLAVE...

...HE IS NO LESS
RESOURCEFUL, NO
LESS COURAGEOUS...

...I WOULD BE PROUD.

...NO LESS
DETERMINED
BECAUSE
OF IT.

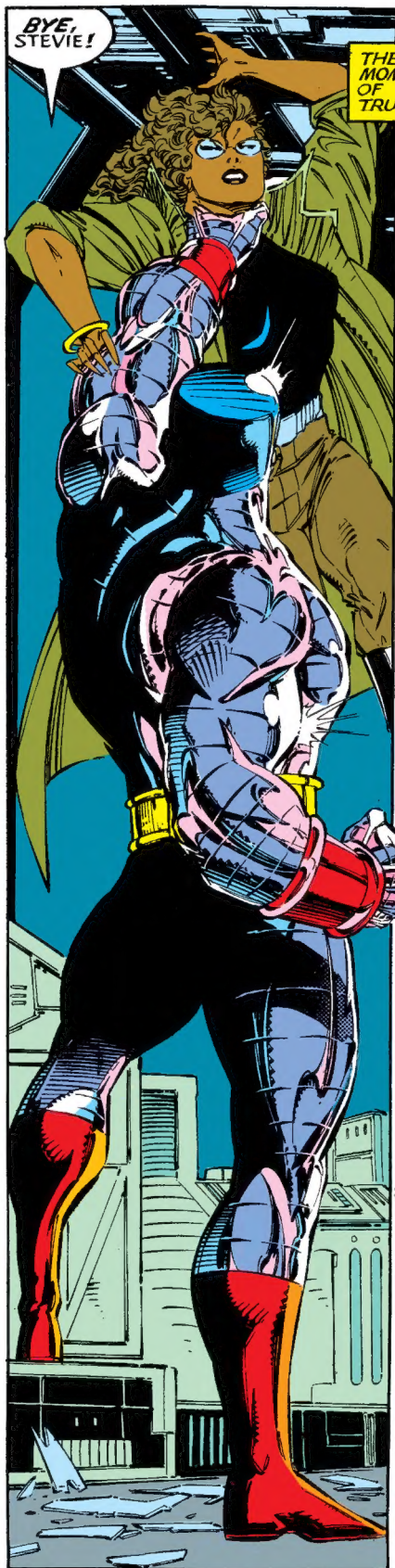
I TRAINED HIM
TOO WELL.

UNDER ANY
OTHER
CIRCUMSTANCES...

HE'S
BUSTING
LOOSE!

PROFESSOR,
THE CONTROLS,
THEY'RE *SHORT-
CIRCUITING!*

HI,
STEVIE!



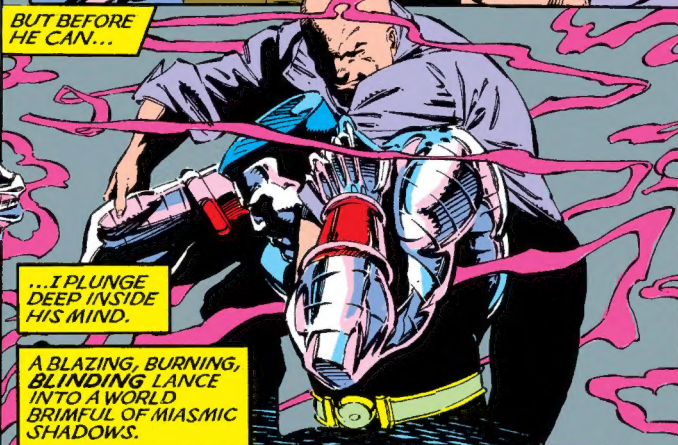
BYE,
STEVIE!

THE
MOMENT
OF
TRUTH.



AS I
ANTICIPATED,
HE DROPS
STEVIE, THE
BETTER TO
GET AT ME.

BUT BEFORE
HE CAN...



...I PLUNGE
DEEP INSIDE
HIS MIND.

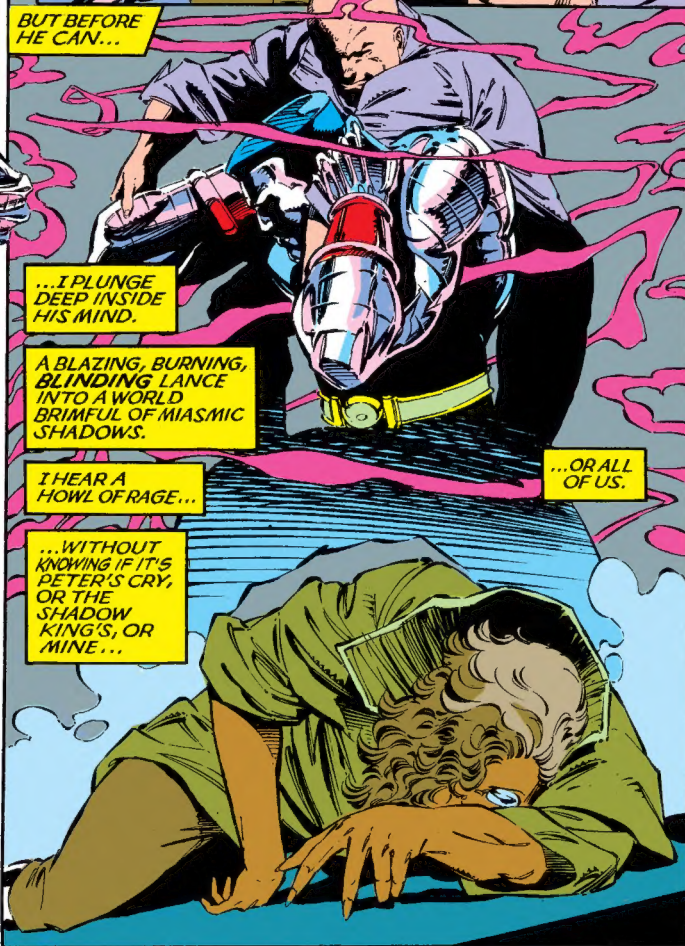
A BLAZING, BURNING,
BLINDING LANCE
INTO A WORLD
BRIMFUL OF MIASMIC
SHADOWS.

I HEAR A
HOWL OF RAGE...

...WITHOUT
KNOWING IF IT'S
PETER'S CRY,
OR THE
SHADOW
KING'S, OR
MINE...

...OR ALL
OF US.

THE SLIGHTEST MISJUDGEMENT
AND PETER CAN BREAK OUR
BONES LIKE THE DRIEST, MOST
FRAGILE OF TWIGGS.



THE KING
RESISTS.

AND ON SOME LEVELS,
TO MY AMAZEMENT, SO
DOES PETER HIMSELF.

I FIND
MYSELF
IMMERSED
IN A WHOLE
NEW LIFE.

THAT OF AN ARTIST NAMED PETER NICHOLAS.

IT IS AS THOUGH THE BOY HAD BEEN REBORN,
WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST AWARENESS OF HIS
TRUE SELF OR PAST. AND, IN THE PROCESS,
BEING GRANTED HIS HEART'S DESIRE, THE
ABILITY TO EXPRESS HIS INNER VISION
THROUGH ART.

I FIND A MAN
WHO WAS
HAPPY, WHO
HAD FOUND A
MEASURE OF
INNER AND
OUTER PEACE.

THAT IS, UNTIL
THE SHADOW
KING CLAIMED
HIM.

THOUGH IT
BREAKS MY
OWN HEART, I
KNOW WHAT
I MUST DO.

FOR BENEATH
THE WORLD OF
PETER NICHOLAS...

...LIES THAT
OF PETER
RASPUTIN.

LOCKED
TIGHT
AWAY.

I SHATTER
THOSE
LOCKS...

...TEAR
DOWN
THE
WALLS...

...BRING COLOSSUS
ONCE MORE TO A FULL
AWARENESS OF WHO AND
WHAT HE IS, IN THE PROCESS
BANISHING ALL HOLD THE
SHADOW KING HAS ON HIM.

THE SHOCK IS MORE
THAN ANYBODY SHOULD
HAVE TO ENDURE.

OR, I THINK
BITTERLY,
HAVE TO INFLICT.

AS, AT LAST,
MERCIFULLY...

...MY STUDENT FALLS
UNCONSCIOUS.

WASHINGTON,
DC...

YOU
ARE
NOT
WELL,
REISZ.

IN THE POINT
OF FACT, *DR. SHEN*,
I--IN THE TRADITIONAL,
CORPOREAL SENSE OF
THE WORD--AM
QUITE *DEAD*.

THAT IS
WHY YOU SERVE
ME, TO HELP
MAINTAIN THIS
PHYSICALITY
THAT HOUSES
MY SPIRIT.

KEEP PUTTING
THIS KIND OF STRAIN
ON IT, DREAD LORD,
AND YOU MAY FIND
YOURSELF SUMMARILY
EVICTED.

THAT BODY "LIVES"
BECAUSE YOU DEVOTE A PORTION
OF YOUR BEING TO MAINTAINING
ITS SYSTEMS. MAINTAINING DIRECT
CONTROL OVER YOUR SURROGATES,
AS YOU DID WITH COLOSSUS,
DIVERTS YOUR CONCENTRATION AND
YOUR STRENGTH. WAGING A
PITCHED BATTLE WITH A
TELEPATH LIKE XAVIER IS
INFINITELY WORSE.

THERE'S A
SMALL GRACE
PERIOD BUT STAY
AWAY TOO LONG,
PUSH YOURSELF TOO
HARD, AND IT WILL
DETERIORATE BEYOND
EVEN YOUR ABILITY
TO RESTORE IT.

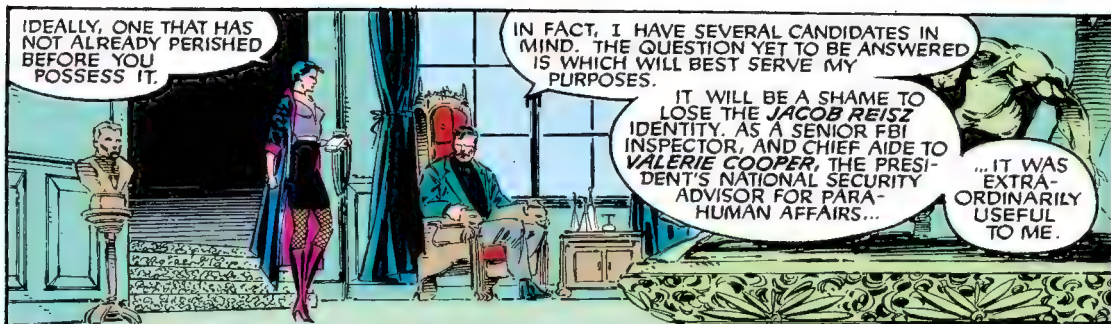
I STAND
CORRECTED,
PHYSICIAN.

BUT SINCE
YOU
RAISED THE
SUBJECT ...

... HAVE YOU A
RESOLUTION?

ONLY
THE MOST
OBVIOUS.

YOU
NEED
A *NEW*
HOST.



IDEALLY, ONE THAT HAS NOT ALREADY PERISHED BEFORE YOU POSSESS IT.

IN FACT, I HAVE SEVERAL CANDIDATES IN MIND. THE QUESTION YET TO BE ANSWERED IS WHICH WILL BEST SERVE MY PURPOSES.

IT WILL BE A SHAME TO LOSE THE **JACOB REISZ** IDENTITY. AS A SENIOR FBI INSPECTOR, AND CHIEF AIDE TO **VALERIE COOPER**, THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR FOR PARA-HUMAN AFFAIRS...

...IT WAS EXTRA-ORDINARILY USEFUL TO ME.



FORGIVE MY PRESUMPTION, DREAD LORD...

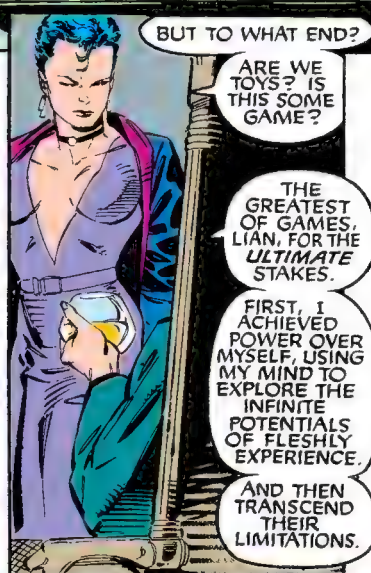
...BUT SERVE **WHAT** PURPOSES?

THE DESTRUCTION OF **CHARLES XAVIER** AND HIS **X-MEN**?



THAT, MY PET, IS BUSINESS WELL MIXED WITH PLEASURE.

FITTING REVENGE FOR PAST DEFEATS.



BUT TO WHAT END?

ARE WE TOYS? IS THIS SOME GAME?

THE GREATEST OF GAMES, LIAN, FOR THE ULTIMATE STAKES.

FIRST, I ACHIEVED POWER OVER MYSELF, USING MY MIND TO EXPLORE THE INFINITE POTENTIALS OF FLESHLY EXPERIENCE.

AND THEN TRANSCEND THEIR LIMITATIONS.



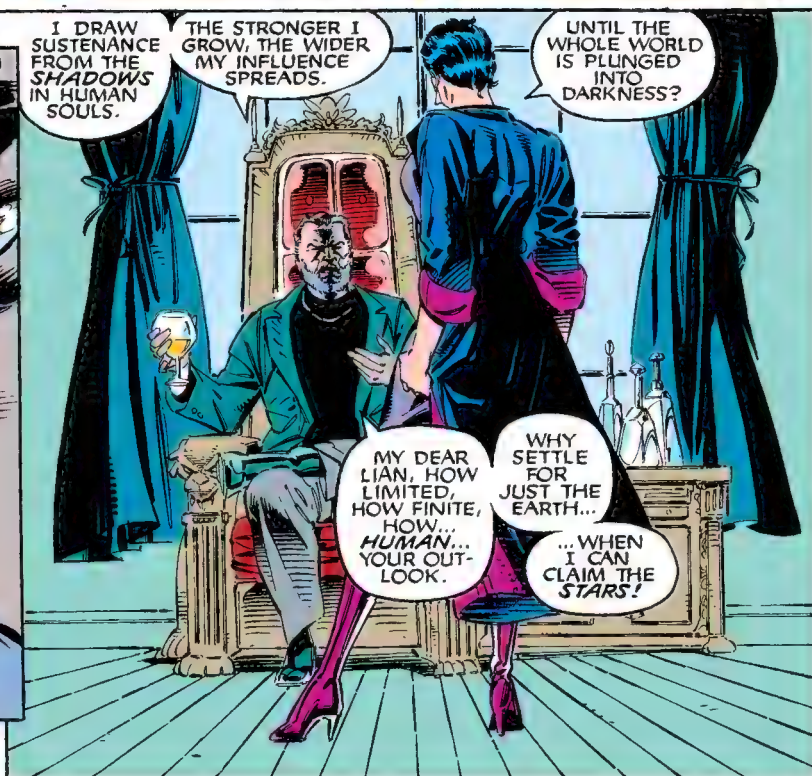
SO LONG AS A **THOUGHT** REMAINS TO ME, I CANNOT DIE.

THEN, I LEARNED TO CONTROL THOSE AROUND ME.

I DRAW SUSTENANCE FROM THE **SHADOWS** IN HUMAN SOULS.

THE STRONGER I GROW, THE WIDER MY INFLUENCE SPREADS.

UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS?



MY DEAR LIAN, HOW LIMITED, HOW FINITE, HOW... **HUMAN**... YOUR OUT-LOOK.

WHY SETTLE FOR JUST THE EARTH...

...WHEN I CAN CLAIM THE **STARS**!

MEANWHILE, ON THE GROUNDS
BEYOND THE MUIR ISLE
MUTANT RESEARCH CENTER...

PITSTAIN
PoTPOURRI!

WOL-**VER**-INE!
DO WE *HAVE* TO
BE STINKIN' AN'
SWEATIN' OUT
HERE?!

QUIET,
JUBILATION!

THE
HUNT IS
ON, AND I'M
IN NO MOOD
TO BE THE
PREY.

THAT SO,
HOMME?

CHANGE O' PACE
I 'BE SEEN'--

--YOU ON
THE SIDE
OF THE
WINNERS,
NON?

WOLVIE--YOU GONNA
LET 'IM GET AWAY
WITH THAT?

GAMBIT PLAYS
THE CARDS HE
GETS, GIRL.

I DEAL
THEM.

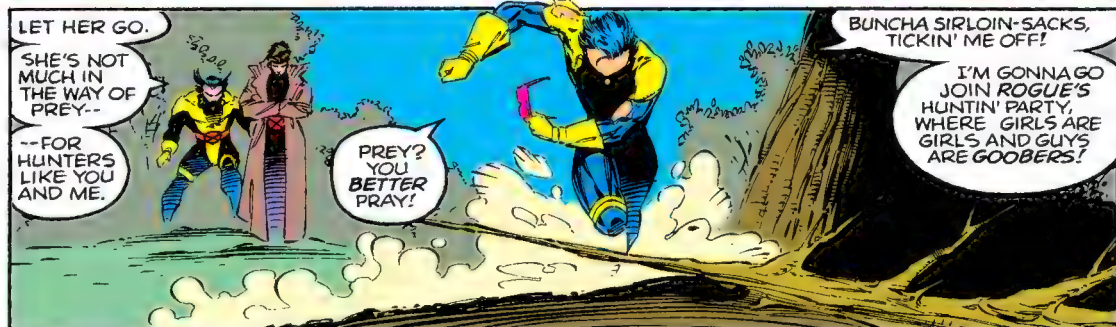
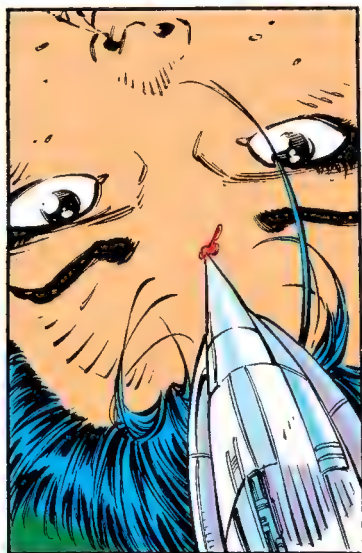
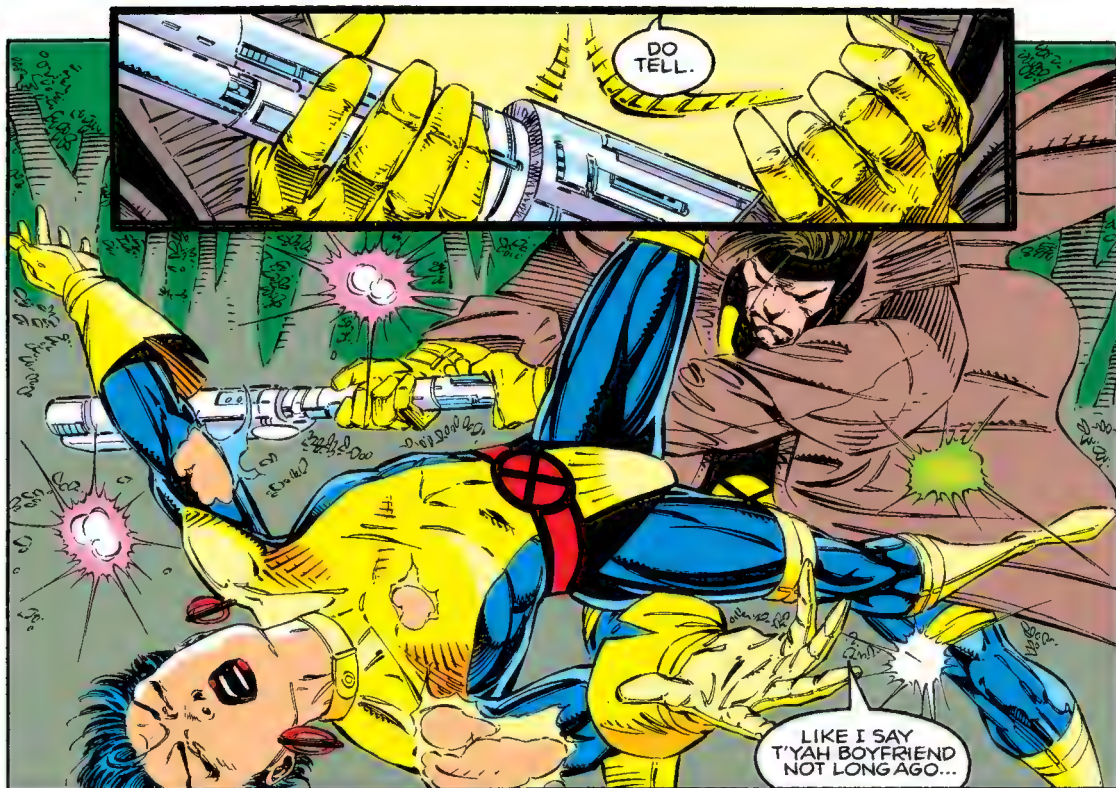
I KNOW IT.
HE KNOWS
IT.

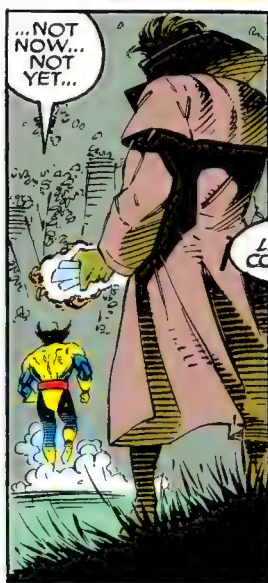
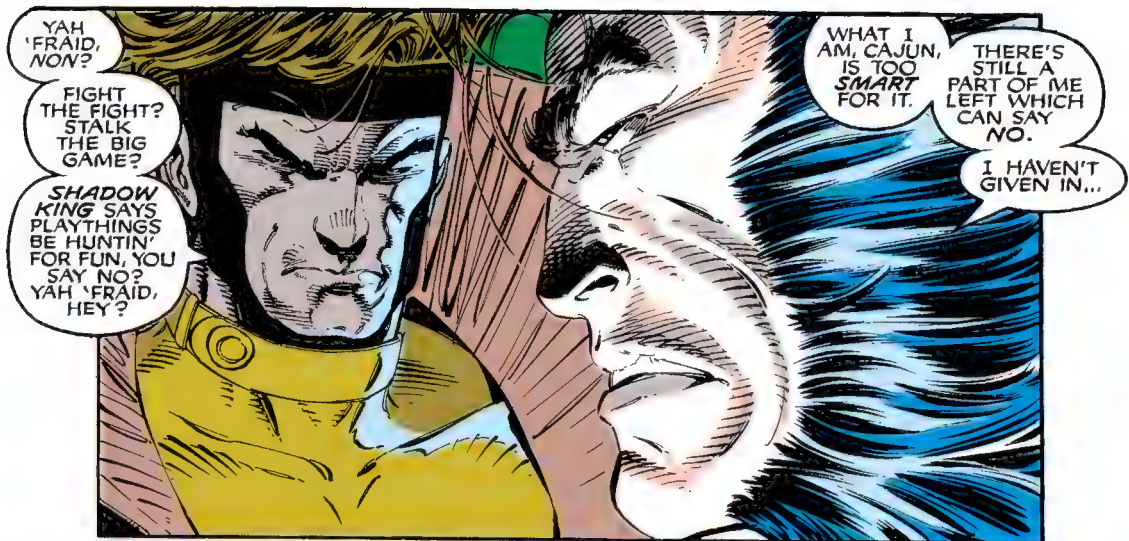
CHEW ON
THAT CUD,
YOU GUMBO
GEEK!

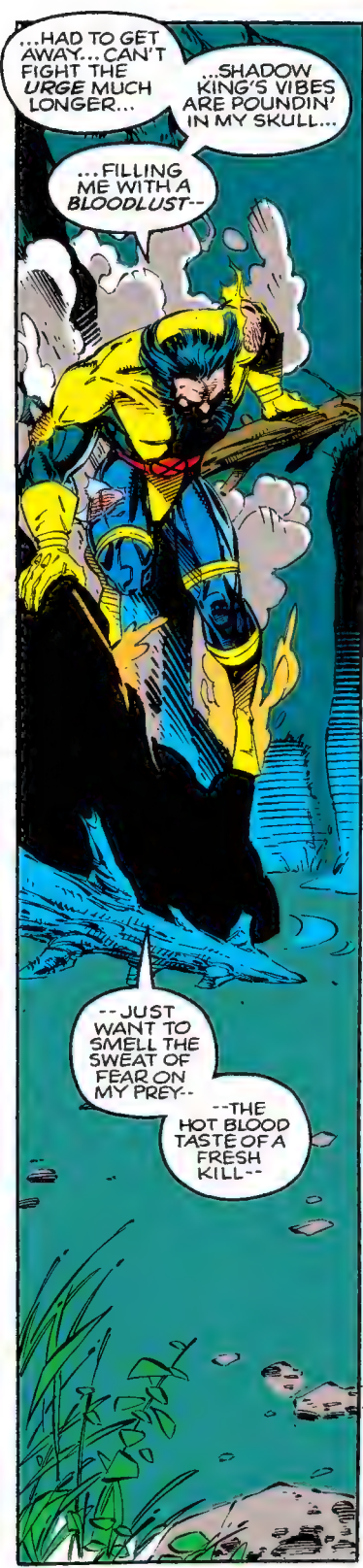
BIG
MOUTH,
HERE.

SWELLED
SHUT,
NEY?

THAT'S IT! I'M
GONNA CRAM
A FISTFUL O'
FIREWORKS
DOWN YOUR
PRETTY BOY
MOUTH!







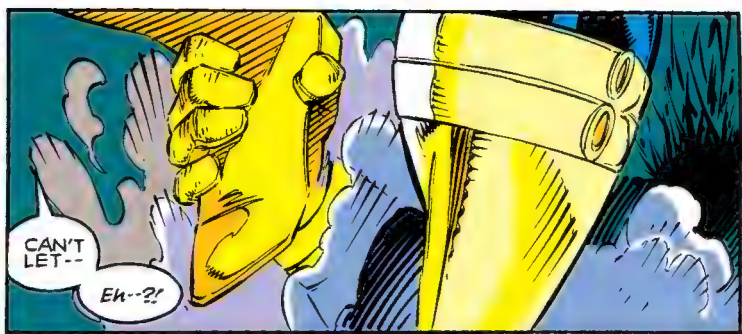
...HAD TO GET AWAY... CAN'T FIGHT THE URGE MUCH LONGER...

...SHADOW KING'S VIBES ARE POUNDIN' IN MY SKULL...

...FILLING ME WITH A BLOODLUST--

--JUST WANT TO SMELL THE SWEAT OF FEAR ON MY PREY--

--THE HOT BLOOD TASTE OF A FRESH KILL--



CAN'T LET--

EH--?!



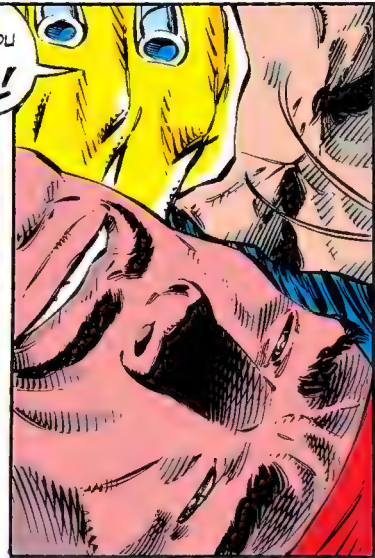
YOU'RE NAILED, OLD MAN!

ROUND ONE GOES TO FORGE!

NOT YET, CHEYENNE!



TIME FOR YOU TO **DIE!**





I DON'T
THINK SO,
WOLVERINE--

--IT'S TIME
FOR YOU TO
REJOIN THE LAND
OF THE LIVING!



WHA--
NNARGH!

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.



THE NEUROSYNAPTIC
BUFFER I
WHIPPED UP--

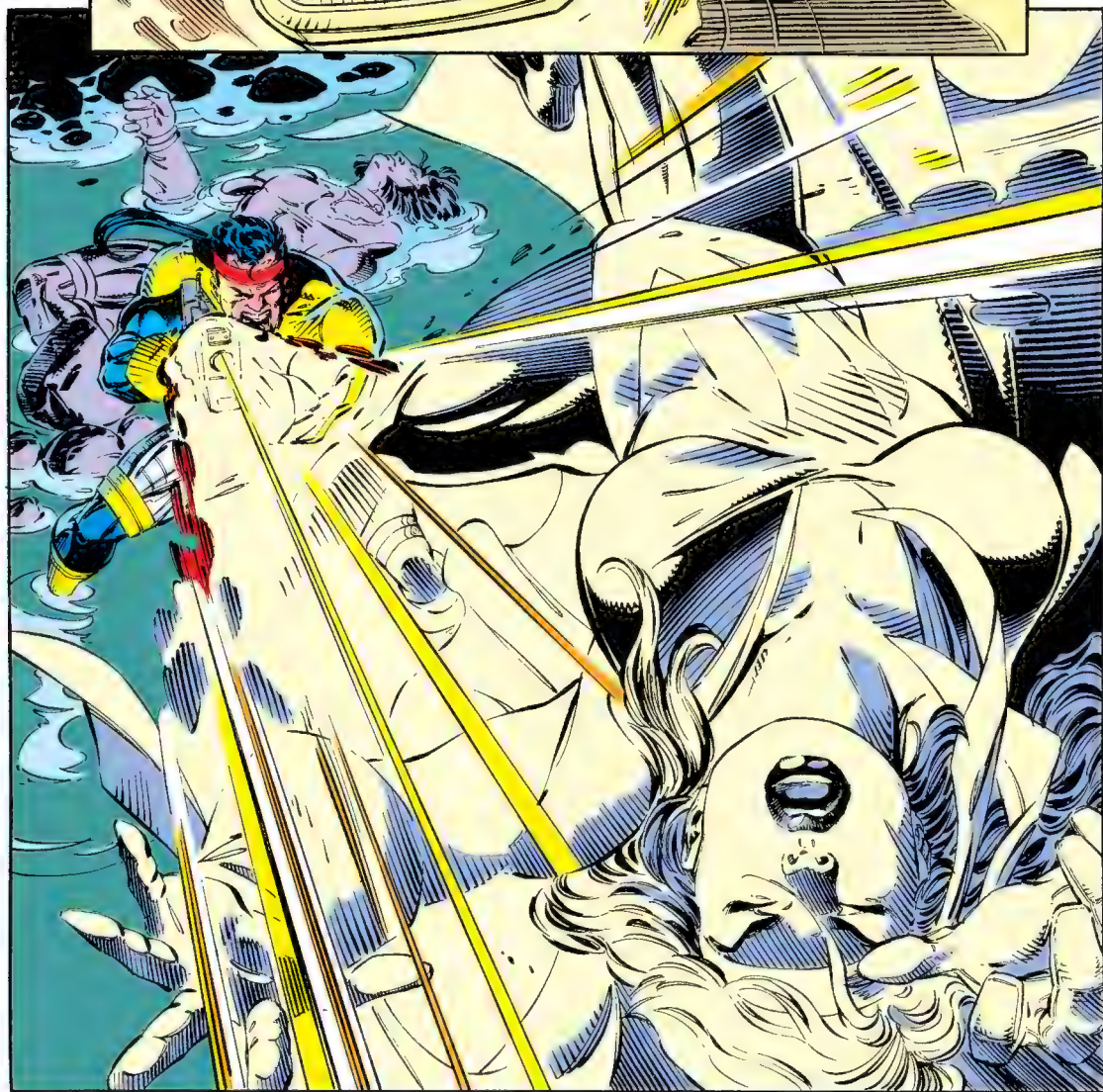
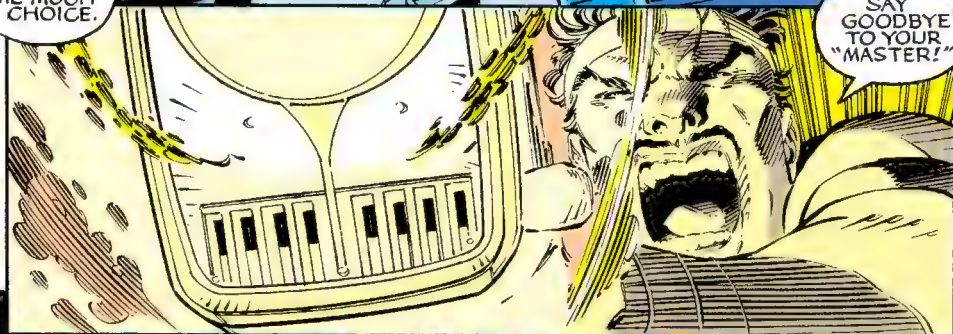
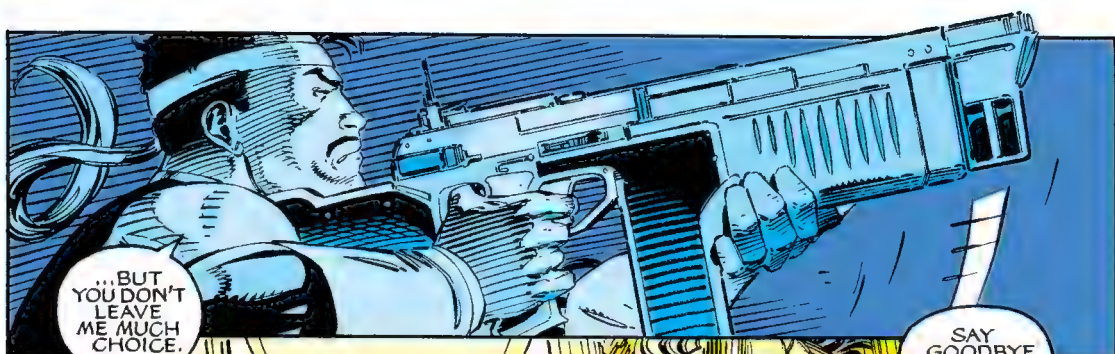
--DOES A
SPIFFY JOB OF
BLOCKING OUT
THE SHADOW
KING'S TELEPATHIC
WAVELENGTHS--

--BUT IT
HURTS WORSE
THAN SLIPPIN'
ON A PAIR
OF SHOES
THREE SIZES
TOO SMALL!

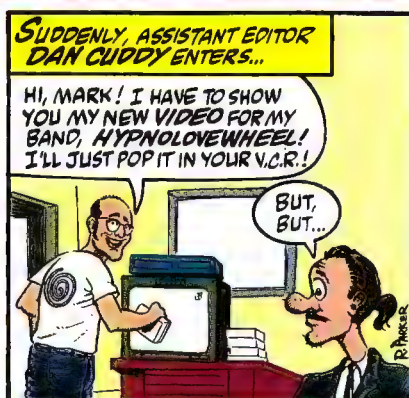
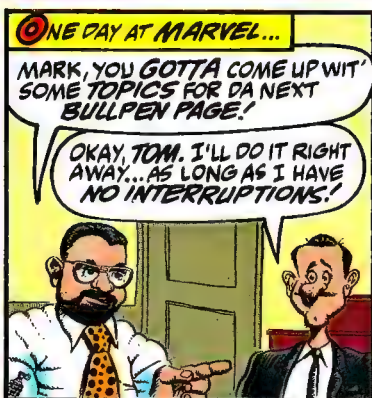
NOW I JUST WAIT
FOR YOU TO COME
AROUND AND WE
CAN FIGURE OUT
WHAT TO DO NEXT.

THE ANSWER
T' THAT ONE'S
EASY, SUGAH...





STAN'S SOAPBOX by Stan Lee & John Ramita



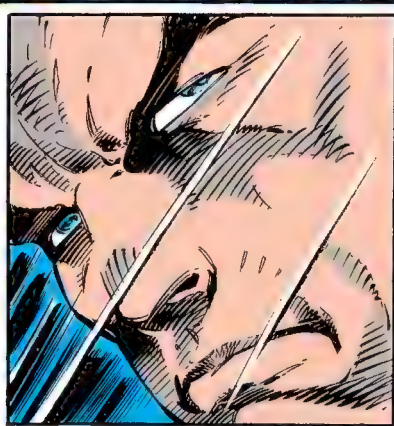
OUTSIDE OF
SALEM CENTER,
WESTCHESTER...

IT'S TAKEN US HOURS TO
STAGGER INTO TOWN, SEEKING
MEDICAL ATTENTION.

PETER AND STEVIE ARE
BOTH EMOTIONALLY AND
PHYSICALLY SPENT.

AND I?

I'VE
BEEN
TIRED
FOR A
VERY
LONG
TIME.



PROFESSOR--
DO YOU SEE--?

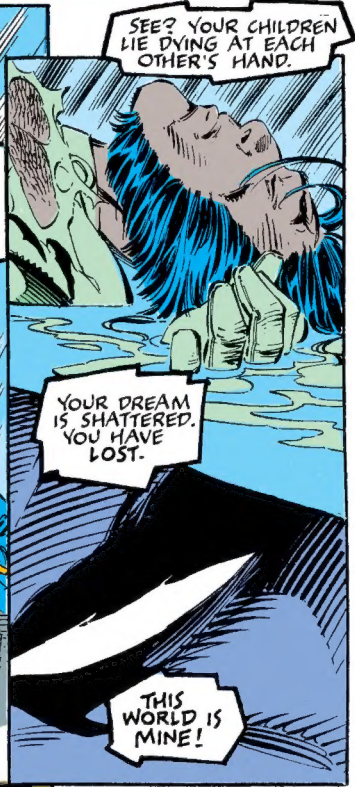
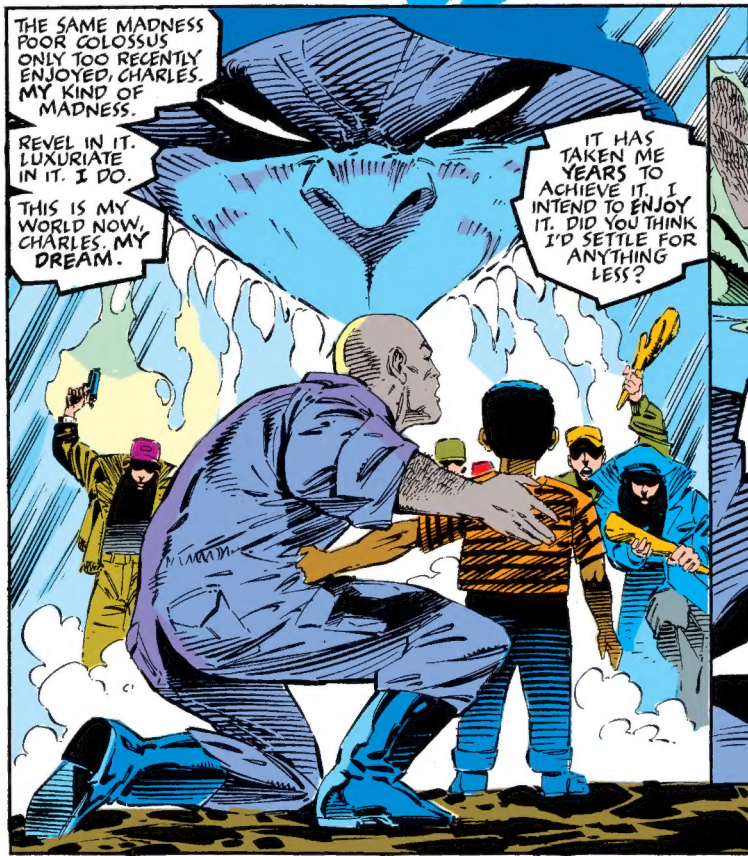
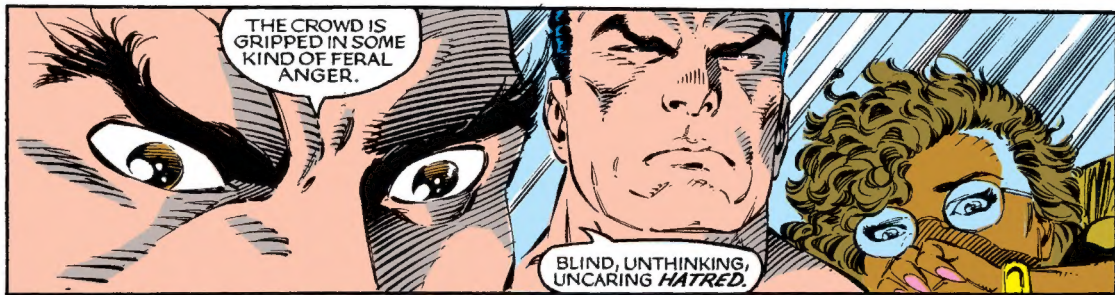
YES, PETER--
SOMETHING IS
WRONG IN SALEM
CENTER.

THE ENTIRE
TOWN APPEARS
TO HAVE BEEN
PARTY TO SOME
KIND OF
RIOTING.

WAIT--
THAT
NOISE--
IN FRONT
OF THE
CROWD--

--THE MOB
IS CHASING
DOWN THAT
LITTLE
BOY?







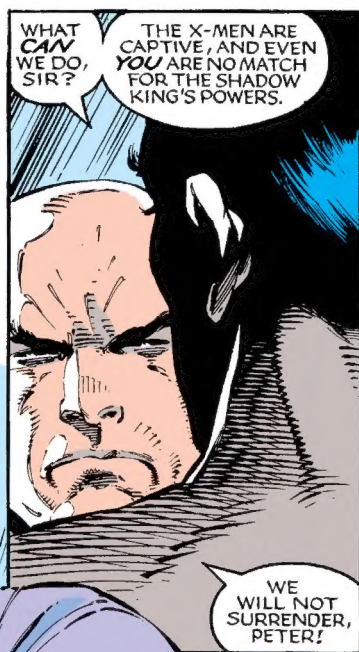
NO

No!

THE SHADOW KING IS GONE, THOUGH HIS INFLUENCE PERVADES THE TOWNSFOLK.

WE'D BEST LEAVE, PROFESSOR.

I KNOW. THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE. THE CHILD, THANKFULLY, IS UNHURT.



WHAT CAN WE DO, SIR?

THE X-MEN ARE CAPTIVE, AND EVEN YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE SHADOW KING'S POWERS.

WE WILL NOT SURRENDER, PETER!

THE SHADOW KING PRIDES HIMSELF ON BEING THE **ANTITHESIS** OF MY DREAM--

--IN MANY WAYS, CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY VERY **FOUNDING** OF THE X-MEN--

--THEN LET US PLAY THE HAND HE DEALS US--

--IT IS TIME TO FIND MY **FIRST** STUDENTS--

--WE NEED THE HELP OF--

X-FACTOR

DO WE HAVE TO SAY IT?
TO BE CONTINUED IN
X-FACTOR #69
AND
THEN BACK HERE NEXT
MONTH FOR THE
EXCITING CONCLUSION!!

X-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP —
387 Park Avenue South — New York, New York — 10016
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear X-Creators,

Since I am quite certain that, by now, you have already received more than a few letters of heartfelt praise for the creative team of Claremont and Lee, I won't bore you by going on at length about what a magnificent job these two gentlemen have been doing every month. All that mindless praise must get tiresome after a while.

So, instead, I will restrict my comments to a brief explanation of why I have enjoyed the most recent issue, which was #276.

First, it is always intriguing when the heroes and the villains seem to switch sides, even if only for a little while. In the latest issue, we get to see a different side of Deathbird than any which we have previously seen, and it is clear that the Shi'ar Empire is plagued now by a worse evil than her own.

I'm sure that no one was really fooled by the new version of "Dark Xavier." He was obviously an impostor of some sort, and no doubt of this remained after his summary execution by Wolvie—but it was still very dramatic, nevertheless. Things like this always make for rapid page-turners.

Even more entertaining was the timely arrival of Lila and Deathbird, and the line, "Two bad, beautiful babes with REALLY BIG GUNS!" I'll say! I'll be chuckling over that one for some time to come!

It will be interesting to see how all this turns out. Skrulls turning themselves into duplicate X-Men... The "Host" and the "Cause"... The Starjammers hoodwinked... Hmmmm...

It was very nice to see that Rogue is finally back up to full strength, and at long last cured of her dual personality problems. She has always been my favorite X-Man, and the only improvement I would make on her, now that she is free of the Carol Danvers persona, would be to give her a few muscles to go along with all that super-strength. This would be strictly a cosmetic change, I know, but in a visual medium...

And while I'm on the subject, let me add my voice to what must surely be thousands of others who are demanding the immediate inclusion of the all new, all great, much bigger, superbly-muscled Lorna Dane in the team! Surely I can't be alone, in all of Marvel-dom Assembled, in the thinking that she is the most awe-inspiring heroine since the advent of the Sensational One herself!

One more thing. A question, this time. Since when is the mysterious "Shadow King" the leader of the Hellfire Club? The last I knew, that dubious honor was held by Magneto, himself. Have I missed something? I am sooo confused! Since the Hellfire Club is my all-time favorite villain group, I find this gap in my knowledge to be profoundly disturbing. If the Hellfire Club has been shaken up again, I want to know about it!

Anyway, keep up the good work!

Dale P. Ochran
(Address withheld)

The Hellfire Club is due for a shakeup, Dale—but in ways they never suspected! The first clue to the future of everybody actually occurred in X-FACTOR #67 (get it if you still can). And speaking of X-FACTOR, if you're a Lorna Dane fan... we'd watch that title closely.

Dear Mr. Harras,

Marvel Comics is rated XXX! This, of course, stands for X-MEN, X-FACTOR and X-FORCE! These are the three hottest titles in comicdom today!!! I am writing to you because you are the editor of these fantastic titles. I don't know if you are responsible for keeping the superb creative teams that create these titles, but if you are, DON'T CHANGE THEM! Lee, Liefeld, and Portacio are the three best artists I have seen in years!! And if that wasn't enough, the storylines and even the inking/coloring is supreme! If I sound overly excited about these books it is because they shine far and above their competition! I am addicted to these titles! I have been collecting NEW MUTANTS since issue #7 and I feel like I know these characters like old friends! I am happy to have been there through the years and watch the team grow and change and I am happy with the change to X-FORCE! However, the cliffhanger and the end of NM #100 is shameful! Cable is Stryfe?!? How can you expect me to wait until JUNE???

X-FACTOR is a book I have never collected or read, but that all changed when Whilce Portacio took over! And if that wasn't enough, I have heard that Peter David is taking over as writer!

And we can't forget the X-MEN! I have collected this title off and on through the years and it has had its ups and downs. At the moment, however, it is soaring skyward!! My only real complaint with the book is Wolverine. His age is being played up and it is being said that he is a "shadow of his true self!" Granted, he is probably in his 40's by now, but his healing factor should cause his body to age more slowly, so that he would be still near his late 20s as far as performance level.

In closing, I would like to say that you are also doing an excellent job on these titles. You must be very proud to be a part of them! Keep these titles coming as good as they have been and I will be a fan(atic) forever! THE MUTANTS HAVE RETURNED TO GREATNESS!!

Andrew Roy
P.O. Box 295
Danville, NH 03819

**And they're gonna stay there, Andrew!
(At least we hope so.)**

Dear X-Friends,

I am writing to congratulate you on the excellent job you are doing on the X-MEN lately. Issues #274 and #275 were superb and set a standard anyone would find hard to match. The storyline completed the evolution of Magneto's character from villain to grim hero. The strength of this three-dimensional character is astonishing and he actually seems to match Wolverine for raw ferocity. Magneto is the noble villain who feels he must do wrong to do right and desperately wishes he did not. This only highlights the tragedy at the end of X-MEN #275 when he turns his back on the dream of Charles Xavier. The parallel with Cable of the New Mutants/X-Force is strong.

As for the team itself, Banshee is, surprisingly, developing into an excellent character.

While I used to hate Banshee, the revised character is strongly compelling. He has overtones of a Charles Xavier who could actually lead the X-Men into battle. What he lacks in raw power he compensates for in charisma and mobility. I really believe he would make, at this point, a superior team leader to Storm. His idealism is tempered by practical sense but he is still willing to suffer for his principles. See the assault on Muir Isle (about issue #254) where he spared a downed enemy at risk to himself. And he certainly is a more staunch supporter of the dream compared to Storm or Wolverine, who stay more out of duty than inclination.

Forge and Gambit are excellent characters with broad powers but not overwhelmingly powerful. They bring diversity to the team. Jubilee is the brash youngster who breaks the tension and has still to prove herself. The current incarnation of Psylocke is strong and much superior to the original. And Storm and Wolverine act as the brooding mainstays of the team. People, this combination is excellent!!!

Christopher Delaney
(Address withheld)

More developments are on the way for Magneto, Chris. So keep watching all the X-titles.

Dear X-Mail,

I guess the best way to begin this letter is to say issue #275 is the most fun, exciting, moving and surprising issue of any title I have ever read. I have literally read thousands.

The first exhilarating surprise was of course the wrap-around cover, which I promptly and carefully removed, placed on cardboard and wrapped in plastic. Wa-Laa! One instant, awesome Lee and Williams mini-poster.

Next—action from the start. Well written, well plotted action. Appropriate and fun to read.

Did I mention satisfying? It seems to me Wolvie has been able to make much of an impact when worse comes to worse. By page six, panel two, I feared this would continue. However, page seventeen, panel two. 'Nuff said!!

Next, two of my favorites—Magneto and Rogue. With the wrap-up of this storyline you brought Magneto's pain and what drives him so much to light for me. I felt my heart was going to burst from my chest. His proclamation of his realization that he isn't, never will be, and shouldn't have tried to be Charles Xavier is true to his character. This is one of the things I find most interesting about him. He is not rooted in evil, but in good, desperately trying to make an effect the only way he knows how.

The complexity of Rogue is at a level until now unseen. It's great to see that degree of independence, intelligence, and X-Men morality in her.

The Starjammers, Lilandra, Deathbird, the Imperial Guard, Zaladane and her Horde, Ka-Zar, Zabu, Shanna and Fury were all magnificently illustrated with storytelling second to none.

Like I said, the best I ever read. Make mine Marvel.

R.C. Bricker
1035 Epworth Ave.
Dayton, OH 45410

Whether Magneto is rooted in good or evil or something totally different is what makes the man so fascinating. R.C. We do know that he believes what he does is always fundamentally right—there's no room for doubt. And that makes Magneto dangerous.



MINUTEMEN

Bluntman